

2-26-1975

Secondary School Based Tri-University

University of Dayton

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Recommended Citation

University of Dayton, "Secondary School Based Tri-University" (1975). *News Releases*. 10288.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/10288

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university of dayton

DAYTON, Ohio, February 26, 1975 --- The challenge to certify teachers who are prepared to make a significant difference in the lives of their students, especially in urban centers, is being answered by three universities in the Dayton area as well as public and parochial school systems.

The project, initiated by the University of Dayton, is an attempt to establish a secondary school based tri-university, urban teacher education center for secondary teachers. The cooperating universities are the University of Dayton, Wright State University and Central State University. The Center will be based at Patterson-Stivers Cooperative High School in down-town Dayton. The first classes begin in September of 1975.

Dr. Bruce M. Taylor, assistant professor of history at UD, will be coordinator of the project. Dr. James E. Gay, associate professor of education, will be one of the team teachers in the project.

"Historically, teacher training institutions have been guilty of isolating their students and more significantly their faculty from continuing experience in public schools and especially in city public schools," explains Dr. Ellis Joseph, Dean of the School of Education at UD. "The result has been a tragic estrangement among the groups whose cooperation is essential in the training of teachers. What is needed is a school based training system which allows the clustering of talent and the sequencing of experience necessary to properly train our teachers."

The answer to that need, according to Dr. Joseph, is the tri-university where faculty of schools of education can interact on a continuing basis with public school teachers in a spirit of mutual trust and professional growth as they both seek to improve classroom performance and to train new teachers.

The tri-university center will create the following patterns of interactions and opportunities:

--Resident faculty from both substantially white and substantially black universities will cooperate in teacher training teams in a secondary school locus.

--In-service graduate courses will be offered at the high schools for teachers.

--Teacher training faculty will cooperate with teachers at the high schools in offering both student teaching and methods courses for students from the universities.

--Students from the three universities will serve as tutors, aides and student teachers within the same training program which will provide another level of black-white dialogue.

--The high school students, themselves culturally mixed, will have a greater opportunity to interact with each other more freely within the same training center.

--Prospective teachers, at various levels of professional preparation, will be able to interact with each other more freely within the same training center.

Hopefully, according to Dr. Joseph, the student teachers in urban classrooms will achieve significantly higher performance levels as measured by secondary cooperating teachers and university supervising instructors. Also student teachers will have a more positive attitude toward teaching urban students and toward racially different students and professional staff. Teachers will improve their performance through in-service training. It is hoped that there will be an impact on student learning as the skills and attitudes of the Center students improve under the guidance of tutors, aides and student teachers.

The project is being funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation which awards grants to improve teaching and to bring colleges and schools together for mutually productive ventures in education.

Sum total of the grant is \$33,800 or \$16,900 for each of the two years of its duration.